

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-37, and 38-40 are pending in the subject application. All of the claims have been examined: claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 18, 26-28, 31, 32, 37, 40, 41, and 43 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and the remaining claims stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 10, 15, 18, 19, 31, 32, and 37 have been amended, and claims 16, 38, and 41-44 have been canceled. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration of this application and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 42 and 44 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the rejection of these claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Ritter, "Transposition Cipher with Pseudo-Random Shuffling: The Dynamic Transposition Combiner" (hereinafter, "Ritter"). Claims 3, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Ritter. Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Ritter in view of Dent, U.S. Patent No. 4,476,566 (hereinafter, "Dent"). Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Ritter in view of Mansoorian et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,400,824 (hereinafter, "Mansoorian"). Claims 4, 19, 20, 22-25, 33, 36, and 38 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Ritter in view of Devereux et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,876,659 (hereinafter, "Devereux"). Claims 7, 8, 21, 29, 30, 34, and 35 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Ritter and Devereux in view of Dent. Finally, claim 39 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Ritter and Devereux in view of Mansoorian.

All of these rejections are rendered moot by the above amendments to the claims. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 19 have been re-written to include the limitations of allowable claims 41 and 43, respectively. Further, allowable claims 9, 15, 18, 31, and 37 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the above-listed rejections of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and formal notice of such is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

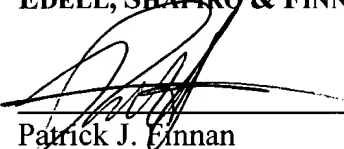
Filed concurrently herewith is payment (\$800) for four independent claims in excess of three (a total of seven independent claims). Applicant hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

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Respectfully submitted by
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